Level 3 & The Missoula Plan

Gregg Strumberger Regulatory Counsel (720) 888-1780 Gregg.Strumberger@Level3.com

Level 3 Communications

- □ Wholesale provider of network components to telecommunications carriers, IP providers and VoIP service providers including access to E-911 services
- □ Offer Internet, Data, and Voice to medium and large enterprise customers
- Offer content support and video services through content market group and Vyvx subsidiary
- □ Largest US CLEC based on interconnection trunks and 911 infrastructure
- Over 33,300 fiber route miles in the US and Europe
- □ Network designed for capacity and efficiency
- ☐ One of the world's largest IP networks
- □ Carrie over 5 petabytes of traffic each day
 - Roughly 2.5 times the amount of data contained in all US academic research libraries combined



Wholesale Customers

- The world's 10 largest telecom providers
- The 4 largest U.S. ILECs
- The 10 largest carriers in Europe
- The 4 largest ISPs
- The 6 largest U.S. cable companies
- Major wireless providers
- Major satellite companies
- Internet content providers
- Media and entertainment companies
- Research and academic institutions
- 35 Federal Departments & Agencies





































comcast.











8x8, Inc.

Enterprise/Content/Video Customers

- □ Ben & Jerry's
- □ Cessna Aircraft
- □ The Coleman Company
- □ The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- **□** EDS Fletcher Allen Healthcare
- **□** Harley-Davidson
- **☐** Hershey Foods Corporation
- □ Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield
- ☐ The Pennsylvania State University
- □ PinnacleHealth System
- □ Shop at Home Network
- □ SunGard
- □ The United States Navy
- **□** Williams-Sonoma
- **□** YouTube & MySpace
- ☐ Major TV Networks, Sport Leagues & Advertisers

Current scheme reflects the Gordian Knot created by regulation

- □ Based on a tension between:
 - Social policy goals
 - Traditional interconnection needs
 - Economics of the circuit switched network
 - Competing governmental jurisdictions

Technology has advanced to the point where these distinctions no longer make sense

- □ IP networks do not recognize the arbitrary regulatory boundaries such as LCAs, LATAs, Etc.
- □ The economics of an IP network are constrained by the present, antiquated regulatory regime

Plan offers a transition from the highly regulated structure of today where business people make investment decisions based on regulatory requirements, to a more efficient, market based regime

- ☐ Moves some implicit access to SLCs where they will face competitive pressure
 - When a carrier can't recover that rate because the market is competitive, that means the market is working
- □ More opportunities for efficient interconnection
- ☐ These are default rules. Parties are free to negotiate other arrangements
- □ Reduces regulatory arbitrage
- □ Solves issues that have been plaguing the industry:
 - VoIP
 - VNXX
 - Transit, Phantom traffic
- Opens rural markets to greater access without imposing the unbundling and telric obligations of the Act:
 - Greater opportunities to allow access to next generation networks